

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02303 270436Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----270439Z 130689 /12
R 261421Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7778

S E C R E T JIDDA 2303

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
SUBJECT: MOBILE ASSAULT BRIDGES

REF: STATE 61689

1. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE USG REVIEW OF ARMS SALES POLICY,
THERE IS SENSITIVITY TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO
DENY TO THE SAG CERTAIN MILITARY ITEMS. THIS WILL BE THE
FIRST INSTANCE OF OUR SEEKING TO CANCEL THE SALE OF MILITARY
HARDWARE--AND AN ITEM ALREADY APPROVED. THEREFORE IT COULD
CAUSE THE SAUDIS TO DIG IN THEIR HEELS EVEN FOR AN ITEM SO
OBVIOUSLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR SAUDI TERRAIN.

2. HOWEVER, IF HANDLED THE RIGHT WAY, I.E., DRAWING ON
THOUGHTS CONTAINED IN PARAS ONE AND TWO REFTTEL, AND NOTING THAT
IT IS AN ITEM THAT SAG DOES NOT NEED, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO
INFORM THE SAUDIS AND GET THEIR AGREEMENT WITHOUT CAUSING A
MAJOR PROBLEM. IN EFFECT, OUR THEME WILL BE BASED ON THE ASSUMP-
TION THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO PURCHASE A \$15 MILLION
ITEM THEY DON'T NEED.

3. WE PROPOSE THAT USMTM INFORM MODA AT A LEVEL WHICH WILL
BE HIGH ENOUGH TO GET A REASONABLY RAPID RESPONSE WITH-
OUT ATTRACTING UNDUE ATTENTION TO THE REQUEST FOR CANCEL-

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA02303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770105-0238
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaaqge.tel
Line Count: 57
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 19043ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 61689
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2987287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBILE ASSAULT BRIDGES
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/19043ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009